

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image transformation apparatus comprising:  
an image receiving section for receiving an image  
5 represented by digital data;  
an image sort discrimination section for  
discriminating whether the image received by said image  
receiving section is a halftone dot image or a multiple  
gradation image;  
10 an image transformation section for applying a  
conversion processing for the multiple gradation image to  
the halftone dot image when it is decided by said image  
sort discrimination section that the image received by said  
image receiving section is the multiple gradation image;  
15 and  
a driver section for outputting an image  
discriminated as the halftone dot image by said image sort  
discrimination section and an image converted into the  
halftone dot image by said image transformation section to  
20 an image output device for outputting a visual image.
2. An image transformation apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said image receiving section receives a  
color image, and said image transformation section applies  
25 a color conversion processing to a color image decided by  
said image sort discrimination section that the image  
received by said image receiving section is the multiple

gradation image, and applies the conversion processing for the multiple gradation image to the halftone dot image.

3. An image transformation apparatus according to  
5 claim 1, wherein said image receiving section receives together with the image additional information indicating whether the image received by said image receiving section is the halftone dot image or the multiple gradation image, and said image sort discrimination section discriminates  
10 whether the image received by said image receiving section is the halftone dot image or the multiple gradation image in accordance with the additional information.

4. An image transformation apparatus according to  
15 claim 1, wherein said image receiving section is adapted to receive a binary halftone dot image and a 256 gradation of multiple gradation image.

5. An image transformation program storage medium  
20 storing an image transformation program which causes a computer system to operate as an image transformation apparatus for performing an image transformation upon receipt of an image represented by digital data, when the image transformation program is executed by the computer system, said image transformation program comprising:  
25  
an image sort discrimination section for discriminating whether the received image is a halftone dot

image or a multiple gradation image;

an image transformation section for applying a conversion processing for the multiple gradation image to the halftone dot image when it is decided by said image sort discrimination section that the received image is the multiple gradation image; and

5 a driver section for outputting an image discriminated as the halftone dot image by said image sort discrimination section and an image converted into the 10 halftone dot image by said image transformation section to an image output device for outputting a visual image.

6. An image transformation program storage medium according to claim 5, wherein said image transformation 15 program causes the computer system to operate as an image transformation apparatus for performing an image transformation upon receipt of a color image, when the image transformation program is executed by the computer system, and

20 wherein said image transformation section applies a color conversion processing to a color image decided by said image sort discrimination section that the received image is the multiple gradation image, and applies the conversion processing for the multiple gradation image to 25 the halftone dot image.